**Time to pipe up and go with it**

* Editorial
* From: *Sunday Herald Sun*
* August 07, 2011 12:00AM



The north-south pipeline at Yarra Glen. Picture: Ed Gannon *Source:* Herald Sun

**VICTORIA was in the grip of a devastating drought when the former Labor government made the decision to build the north-south pipeline.**

The $750 million pipe would carry water from the Goulburn irrigation areas to thirsty Melbourne, where storages were running perilously low.

The decision was controversial, with Goulburn residents accusing Melbourne of stealing its water. To sweeten the deal, the government also committed to upgrading infrastructure in the area, providing more water for irrigators in the food bowl. To partly fund it, Melbourne water users were , slugged with high water bills and subsidised the project to the tune of $300 million.

But in a rash decision designed to appease Nationals voters in the region, the Liberal-National Coalition led by Ted Baillieu pledged that if it were elected, it would turn the pipe off. And so it sits, empty and unused, while billions of litres of water run away and flush out into the ocean.

The Sunday Herald Sun is today revealing that billions of litres of water - enough to fill Melbourne's storages to the brim - have been wasted in the past few weeks. The water has to be run out of the Goulburn system - which is already 90 per cent full - to protect the area against a flood. But instead of being piped to Melbourne and stored in the city's massive dams as insurance against the next big dry, it's been flushed out to sea. Wasted, down the drain.

The drought may be over for now, but there's no guarantee the wet conditions will continue.

Whether or not you agreed with Labor's decision to build the pipeline, circumstances have changed.

It's time to put common sense ahead of politics. Premier Baillieu should reverse his populist decision, and turn the pipe back on.

Like the pipe or loathe it, the fact is that the money's already been spent. Leaving the pipe sitting empty is putting political convenience first and common sense last.

The voters have had their say on Labor, and Labor's water policies, and turfed it out of office at the 2010 election. Mr Baillieu doesn't have to endorse Labor's decision to build the controversial pipeline, but he shouldn't throw good money after bad by letting billions of litres of precious water run away into the ocean.

**Do one of the following tasks:**

**Task A** – How is written and visual language used to attempt to persuade the audience to share the point of view of the writer in the editorial *Time to pipe up and go with it?*

(Use Task B to help you with the structure and give you ideas of what to discuss, but aim to mention further aspects of the article and write in paragraphs without headings. Questions 1-3 of Task B more or less comprise your first paragraph, although you should also try in the introduction to sum up the range of tones used in the editorial.)

**Task B** - Answer the following questions:

* 1 – Write what type of article this is, when it was published, when and where.
* 2 – What assumptions do you think the article makes about the readers of this article? Try to give reasons for your answer.
* 3 - What is the contention of this editorial?
* 4– Describe the tone of the first two paragraphs?
* 5 – Explain how the phrases underlined in the first two paragraphs help create the tone you’ve identified in question 2 and emphasise the writer’s contention.
* 6 – What is the tone of the third paragraph?
* 7 – Explain what image is created of the government with the phrase ‘sweeten the deal’. How does this image help persuade the reader of the writer’s contention?
* 8 – What is being appealed to in the reader with ‘slugged with high water bills’? Again, how does this strengthen the contention of the editorial?
* 9– How does the phrase beginning ‘billions of water….’ make the reader feel that Baillieu is at fault?
* 10 – What is the tone of the fifth paragraph beginning ‘The Sunday Herald Sun….’?
* 11 – Give at least two examples of how that tone is created. Explain too how those examples help to persuade the reader to agree with the point of view of the editorial.
* 12 – What does the phrase, ‘It’s time to put common sense ahead of politics’ imply about politicians and Baillieu? How does the phrase help strengthen the editorial’s contention?
* 13 – What do you think is the purpose of the final sentence of the editorial?

**Task C**

1 – Describe the contention of the article.

2 –Write out the underlined sections of the editorial. Next to each underlined section explain the technique used to persuade the reader and how that phrase, word or sentence influences the reader to agree with the writer’s contention. The questions for Task B might give you some hints as well as the terms listed in the boxes below.

Some useful terms: attacks, connotations, generalisation, alliteration, emotive and vivid language, the use of statistics, exaggeration, repetition, bias{that is being one sided}, appealing to the hip-pocket nerve in the reader, using logic and reason